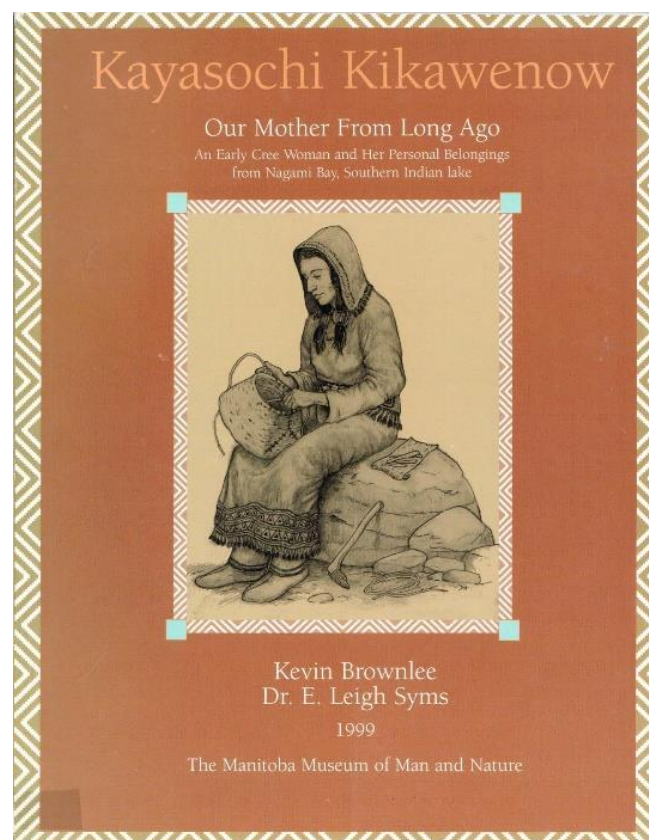


## Archaeology: The Foundation of a Good Story

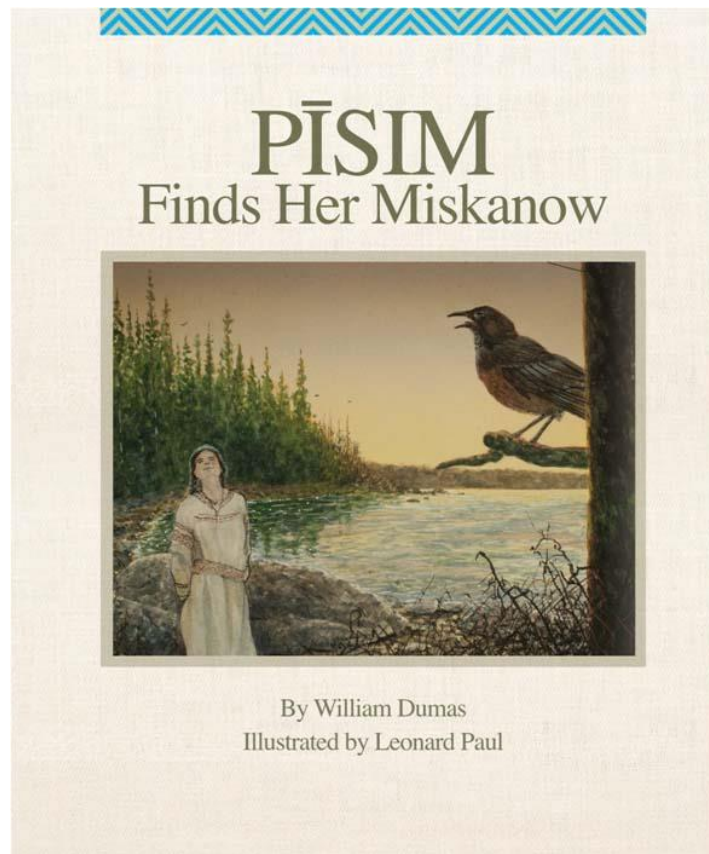
**Kevin Brownlee** (Curator of Archaeology, Manitoba Museum) and **Myra Sitchon** (Manager of Indigenous Policy, Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations)

In our new collaborative project, archaeology has laid the foundation for the Asiniskow Ithiniwak (Rocky Cree) in northern Manitoba to reclaim their history by revitalizing their stories of cultural identity. This path of reconciliation between science and Indigenous tradition began on Southern Indian Lake in 1992 when archaeologists recovered the remains of a woman known today as Kayasochi Kikawenow (Our Mother from Long Ago).



Her unique tool-kit represented a pivotal time in Cree history just prior to contact with Europeans -- a time called the Protocontact. During this period, European goods were being traded much further inland by middlemen than Europeans themselves had moved. In north-central Manitoba during the mid-1600s, stories of Europeans no doubt accompanied the new trade goods.

The woman's tools and remains provided the basis of our project's first book, "Pisim Finds Her Miskanow."



Now we are continuing our efforts to add to our first book through our new project, "The Six Seasons of the Rocky Cree." Involved is a large partnership research group that will continue the program for the next seven years as we examine the Late Woodland, Protocontact, and early Postcontact periods. The goal of the project is to assist in revitalizing and reclaiming Rocky Cree culture, identity, and history by reconnecting youth to their heritage. This will be accomplished by integrating real places, real artifacts, and oral history into historical fiction picture books, educational resources, and exhibits.